



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/434,498	11/05/1999	MUNEHRO DATE	ASAIN0058	4034

113 7590 12/10/2002

GRIFFIN BUTLER WHISENHUNT & SZIPL LLP
SUITE PH-1
2300 NINTH STREET SOUTH
ARLINGTON, VA 222042396

EXAMINER

HESS, BRUCE H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1774

DATE MAILED: 12/10/2002

19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/434,498

Applicant(s)

Date et al.

Examiner

Bruce Hess

Group Art Unit

1774

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9-25-02 (Amdt, Decl. and IDS)
- ☐ This action is FINAL.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 3-6 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 3-6 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 18
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 1774

1. Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 USC 112 (first paragraph) as being based upon a non-enabling disclosure.

In view of applicants' response to the last Office action, the examiner has modified his position to the extent that the disclosure is enabling to the extent that "a phenol-based compound with long chains in the alkyl group" is employed as the color developer.

2. Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the "Yokota article".

The Yokota article teaches reversible heat-sensitive paper which employs phenol-based compounds with long chains in the alkyl group. Applicants' heating steps constitute the obvious methods of using the reversible paper disclosed in the Yokota article. Since the Yokota paper employs the same materials recited in applicants' claims, it is inherent that the Yokota paper functions in the manner claimed by applicants.

3. Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent of Maruyama et al.

Maruyama et al. teach applying heat to reversible recording material which employs color formers and color developers, wherein the color developers can comprise phenol-based compounds with long chains in the alkyl group. Since the Maruyama et al. recording material employs the same components as applicants' claimed recording material, it is inherent that it functions in the manner claimed by applicants.

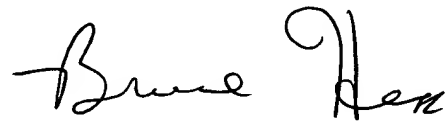
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruce Hess whose telephone number is (703) 308-2402. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9 Am to 5 PM.

Art Unit: 1774

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on (703) 308-0449. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7115 for regular communications and (703) 308-7115 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

B. Hess/mn
November 20, 2002

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce Hess".

BRUCE H. HESS
PRIMARY EXAMINER